European human rights organisation Transgender Europe (TGEU) which works for the rights of trans people chose Malta to launch its second edition of the Human Rights and Gender Identity-Best Practice Catalogue.

Malta features strongly in this catalogue following the adoption of the Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics Act (GISEC) which is hailed as a best practice for legal gender recognition.

The catalogue was launched during a press conference jointly organised by the Ministry for Civil Liberties, Transgender Europe and Drachma Parents Group ahead of a High Level Conference on LGBTIQ Equality Mainstreaming to be held on Thursday.

Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties Helena Dalli lauded TGEU for choosing Malta to launch this catalogue and said that this shows that Europe is recognising what Malta has been doing in the past years. Dr Dalli said that Malta has served as a model for various other countries in the field of LGBTIQ equality.

“What we have been doing and what we will continue to do is coming from the grass roots, from families and from people’s realities” added Minister Dalli.

Dr Dalli said that government will continue working in the field of human rights, including the equality bill and the cohabitation Bill which is expected to be formally approved by Parliament in the coming weeks.

Richard Kohler, Senior Policy Officer at TGEU said: “Since the publication of the first best practice catalogue in 2011, trans rights across Europe have advanced in leaps and bounds. It is actually very fitting to launch this edition in Malta, whose progress in this area of human rights has become an inspiration for other countries to follow, and a beacon of hope for trans people across the continent.”

Joseanne Peregin from Drachma Parents Group spoke about the European network of parents of LGBTIQ people that was launched in the past days. Ms Peregin explained how as an umbrella organisation,
the network aims to show support and solidarity to other families and to build groups of parents of LGBTIQ people.

LGBTIQ Consultative Council Chair Gabi Calleja remarked how the collective effort between the various members within the Consultative Council led to vast changes over the past years in the field of LGBTIQ.

The Director of Human Rights and Integration Silvan Agius explained how the High Level Ministerial Conference intends to provide a platform for ministers, European Union officials, national government representatives, policy makers and civil society advocates to take stock of the current situation, share experiences and best practices and learn from one another for better LGBTIQ equality mainstreaming in all policy spheres.

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